

# Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program

The Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program is called OSHIIP for short.

OSHIIP provides free health insurance information and services for people with Medicare.

People covered by Medicare can get help from OSHIIP in various ways:

- A nationwide toll-free phone number: **1-800-686-1578**
- Volunteers and information sites near you
- A speakers bureau
- This web site
- Objective, free and easy-to-read literature — including Ohio shopper's guides

## Free services available from OSHIIP

### **If you are on Medicare**

OSHIIP exists specifically for you. We will answer your questions about any of the matters listed below.

- Medicare health coverage for seniors and for people under age 65 with disabilities
- Medicare Health Plans, such as HMOs
- Medicare supplemental insurance
- Long-term care insurance
- Home health care coverage
- Retiree health plan coverage
- Savings programs (such as Medicaid, QMB and SLMB) for people with Medicare

## Free services available from OSHIIP

### **If you know someone on Medicare**

You probably know someone covered by Medicare. Many people call OSHIIP to get information for their parents, grandparents or other family members and friends who are covered by Medicare. If someone close to you is on Medicare, one way you can help is by taking the time to understand Medicare yourself.

### **Toll-free hotline**

The Medicare experts at OSHIIP answer between 600-800 calls every week. We provide objective, accurate information and assistance. Call us toll-free.

 **1-800-686-1578**

### **Publications**

The Ohio Department of Insurance and the U.S. government have produced many consumer-friendly publications.

#### **Ohio Shopper's Guides:**

- Medicare supplements
- Long-term care insurance
- Annuity contracts
- Auto, home and life insurance

#### **Brochures:**

- Ohio Medicare Partners
- Medicare Home Health Care
- Choosing a Nursing Home
- Ohio Medicare Savings Programs
- Your Medicare Benefits
- Medicare Hospice Coverage

### **Local volunteer counselors**

OSHIIP is involved in your neighborhood.

- OSHIIP has trained and certified more than 1,000 volunteers across the state
- Our volunteer counselors are experts on Medicare and related health insurance matters
- A local volunteer can meet with you in person or speak with you over the telephone

## Free services available from OSHIIP

### **Speakers bureau**

- You can schedule a speaker for your group
- Our speakers can discuss Medicare & issues related to health insurance for people covered by Medicare

## OSHIIP history

OSHIIP is funded by a federal grant and by the state of Ohio. The Ohio Department of Insurance in Columbus administers the program.

Since its start in 1992, OSHIIP has:

- Counseled more than 382,000 people
- Saved Ohio consumers \$3.6 million
- Distributed more than 968,000 publications
- Trained and certified more than 2,300 community-based volunteers
- Established more than 250 information sites

### **OSHIIP is a proud member of these organizations:**

- Ohio Medicare Partners
- Inter-Agency Council on Hispanic/Latino Affairs
- Ohio's Aging Eye Public/Private Partnership
- A national network of similar state programs

## Want to become an OSHIIP volunteer?

Without volunteers, OSHIIP could not fulfill its mission. Dedicated people are needed to be volunteers in all parts of Ohio. As a volunteer, you will:

- Learn about Medicare in a free 20-hour course
- Help people in your community
- Have the satisfaction of taking part in a truly worthy cause

Keep reading for the job descriptions for our many different volunteer positions. If you're interested, please contact us about the next training course in your area.

 Call 1-800-686-1578 or email to [oshiipmail@ins.state.oh.us](mailto:oshiipmail@ins.state.oh.us)

## Want to become an OSHIIP volunteer?

### **Volunteer opportunities**

Even if you don't think you have the necessary skills to be an OSHIIP volunteer, you may find your background fits one of our volunteer job descriptions below.

In addition, many of our clients appreciate volunteers with special skills. If you are a person with a disability or if you are bilingual, your help is especially needed.

### **Volunteer counselor**

- Responsible for personal and phone contact with clients
- Provides information, assistance and referrals to other resources

### **Volunteer administrator**

- Responsible for scheduling and staffing local OSHIIP information sites
- Assists counselors and other volunteers

### **Volunteer recruiter**

- Responsible for finding local people who want to volunteer
- Performs some marketing duties

### **Volunteer educator**

- Responsible for instructing the community and local volunteers about OSHIIP's purpose
- Gives presentations on changes in Medicare and other related issues

### **Volunteer marketer**

- Responsible for marketing OSHIIP through local resources
- Promotes local awareness of the program

## How to contact OSHIIP

 Call 1-800-686-1578

Email [oshiipmail@ins.state.oh.us](mailto:oshiipmail@ins.state.oh.us)

OSHIIP is a service of the Ohio Department of Insurance.